H.E. Dr. Juozas Bernatonis
Minister of Justice
Gedimino pr.30/1
2600 Vilnius

H.E Dailis Alfonsas Barakauskas
Minister of Interior
Sventaragio 2
2600 Vilnius

The Hague, 18 November 2013

Dear Juozas, dear Dailis

On behalf of Finland, The Netherlands, Sweden, Estonia, Hungary, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom, we have the honor to share with you our views on the general principles which could guide the future development of the EU's Justice and Home Affairs policies beyond 2014. These general principles have also been shared with Vice-President Reding and Commissioner Malmström.

The multiannual JHA programmes of Tampere, the Hague and Stockholm demonstrated the value of a strategic approach and a long term vision for future JHA cooperation. As a result, they have stimulated a balanced development of the JHA sector. As the Stockholm Programme is coming to an end, a new strategic vision is needed to give long-term guidance to the EU's JHA policies beyond 2014.

On the basis of article 68 TFEU the European Council shall define the strategic guidelines for the legislative and operational planning within the area of freedom, security and justice in June 2014. Given the importance of JHA cooperation for the Member States, and considering the preparatory process that has been set in motion, we consider it to be essential that the JHA Council is closely involved in the preparation of a new policy framework. Therefore, we also attach great value to discuss this topic during the JHA Council meeting of 5-6 December.

We sincerely hope this may contribute to a fruitful and constructive dialogue, and are looking forward to continuing our exchange of views in the Council over the next couple of months under your presidency, and subsequently, under the Greek presidency of the Council.

With assurances of our highest consideration,

Ivo Opstelten
Minister of Security & Justice
The Netherlands

Beatrice Ask
Minister of Justice
Sweden

Anna-Maja Henriksson
Minister of Justice
Finland

Päivi Räsänen,
Minister of the Interior
Finland

Chris Grayling MP
Secretary of State for Justice
United Kingdom

Tibor Navracsics
Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Public Administration and Justice
Hungary

Hanno Pevkur
Minister of Justice
Estonia

Ken-Marti Vaher
Minister of Interior
Estonia

Senko Plicanic
Minister of Justice
Republic of Slovenia

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